AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 20, replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--As shown in FIG. 1, in an optical disc 100, for example, recording (writing) can be performed a plurality of times or once, in various recording methods, such as a magneto optical method and a phase change method. The optical disc 100 has a recording surface on a disc main body with a diameter of about 12 cm, as is a DVD. On the recording surface, the optical disc 100 is provided with: a lead-in area 104; a data recording area 106; and a lead-out area 108, from the inner circumference to the outer circumference, with a center hole 102 as the center. Then, in each recording area, groove tracks and land tracks are alternately provided, spirally or concentrically, with the center hole 102 as the center. The groove tracks may be wobbled, or pre-pits may be formed on one of or both of the tracks. Incidentally, the present invention is not particularly limited to the optical disc having these three areas. For example, even if the lead-in area 104 or the lead-out area 108 does not exist, a file structure explained below can be constructed. Moreover, as described later, the lead-in area 102 and the lead-out area 108 may be further segmentized (refer to FIG. [[8]] 9, etc.).--

Page 21, replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--As shown in FIG. 2, an information recording apparatus ~~200~~ 1 is provided with: an optical pickup 501; a spindle motor 502; a head amplifier 503; a driver / strategy circuit 504; a buffer 505; a DVD modulator 506; a data ECC (Error Correction Code) generator 507; a buffer 508; an interface 509; a sum generator 520; a demodulator 521; a pit data ECC circuit 522; a dropout detector 523; a push-pull generator 530; a LPF (Low Pass Filter) 531; a BPF (Band Pass Filter) 532; a HPF (High Pass Filter) 533; a TE (Tracking Error) detector 534; a wobble detector 535; a LPP (Land Pre Pit) detector 536; a FE (Focus Error) detector 537; a servo unit 540; a recording clock generator 541; a LPP data detector 542; a detrack detector 550; and a CPU 560.--

Page 23, replace the paragraph beginning on line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

--The data ECC generator 507 appends or adds a code for error correction to the record data which is inputted from the interface 509. Specifically, the data ECC generator 507 appends an ECC code in each predetermined block unit (e.g. ECC cluster unit), and outputs it to the DVD modulator ~~508~~ 506.--

Page 32, replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

--Incidentally, the information recording apparatus in the example which is explained with reference to FIG. 2 is also used as the example of an information recording / reproducing apparatus. In other words, it can reproduce the record information through the head amplifier ~~530~~ 503, the sum generator 520, the demodulator 521, and the pit data ECC circuit 522, and it includes the function of an information reproducing apparatus or the function of an information recording / reproducing apparatus in the example.--

Page 35, replace the paragraph beginning on line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

--At this time, the detrack detector 550 preferably monitors the physical address (or the pre-format address information, or the LPP signal) of the recording position of the data, to thereby judge whether or not the physical address has predetermined continuity. For example, if the physical address does not have the continuity, it can be assumed that the optical pickup 501 does not record the data continuously along the track on the optical disc 100 and that it records the data at a distant track position. Therefore, in this case, as long as there is no special condition, such that the CPU ~~550~~ 560 gives an instruction to record the data at a track position away, for example, the detrack detector 550 may judge that the detrack occurs.--

Page 36, replace the paragraph beginning on line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

--As a result of the judgment, if it is judged that the layer flag is inappropriate (the step S204: Yes), the detrack detector 550 judges that the detrack occurs (the step S208). On the other hand, if it is judged that the layer flag is not inappropriate (the step S204; ~~Yes~~ No), then, the detrack detector 550 judges whether or not the input of the synchronization signal for recording is inappropriate (step S205). Here, for example, in response to whether or not there is a shift or difference between the cycle of the wobble signal detected on the wobble detector 535 upon the recording and the synchronization signal (timing signal) generated by the recording clock generator 541 (i.e. whether or not there is a shift or difference between the timing that the optical pickup 501 records the data and the synchronization signal generated by the recording clock generator 541), if there is the shift, it may be judged that the input of the synchronization signal is inappropriate.--

Page 45, replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

--The file system 113 is one specific example of the "management information" of the present invention, in which various management information necessary for the recording operation and the reproduction operation of the optical disc 101 is recorded. For example, it includes the area constituting data

of the entire optical disc 101 (e.g. the distribution map of a recorded data recording area and an unrecorded data recording data, etc.), information for specifying an usable area, and the like. Moreover, there is also recorded information which indicates that a special area in the data recording area ~~114~~ 116 is the caution area.--